

Mr. PEPYS to the Lord Mayor
Upon the Present State of
CHRIST-HOSPITAL.

To the Right Honourable Sir Humphry
Edwin, Lord Mayor.

Tuesday, Octob. 25. 1698.
Tork-Buildings.

My Lord,

ANother Three Months are now run-out, and the whole twelve of your Lordship's Great Office at the Eve of their Expiring; while our poor **Orphans** remain in the same reliefeless State I left them in with your Lordship, in my Letter of the 5th. of April last. Wherein nothing more was propos'd of Trouble to your Lordship towards the remedying it (and that too of your Lordship's own seeking) than the accompanying with your Authority my Report thereof to the Gentlemen of **Christ-Hospital** (to whom it was specially directed) and to the **Body-Corporate** of the **City**, which, as I have heretofore noted, stands originally answerable for the same, to the **Crown**.

In neither of which, though abundantly apply'd-to in both, has your Lordship thought fit to express any regard to your Undertaking to me. But so much the contrary; as to have arraign'd my late Memorial to you concerning it (even after your Own and the Court of Aldermen's solemn Thanks to me for it) as a Libel, and the only Occasion of the **No-Voice** given your Lordship, at the late Parliament-Election for the **City**. And this deliver'd me from your Lordship, and my Lady Mayorefs too, as your Joint-Messsage, by the same Worthy Citizen, and Member both of your Common Council and Hospital, whom your self was first pleas'd to employ to me, on those Pious Errands I was mis'd by, to the submitting the Execution of this Matter singly to your Lordship.

My Lord, I shall not offer at the asking-after, or even aiming at the Ground of this your so extraordinary Dealing, in a Cause of so Religious an Import; as leaving that to God, the City, and your Self, to be reckon'd-for. It shall suffice me, My Lord, to observe, That it has arisen from neither of those Causes, whereto the Court of Aldermen were led to joyn with your Lordship in the assigning it, and in the yet unperform'd Undertaking for its Recovery; your Sickness, I mean, My Lord, and Sir Tho. Stamp's Absence.

A

Give

Give me leave only, to bewail the *Consequences* of it to the *House*; whatever it may end in to the *City*. Namely, the Continuance hereby occasion'd to the *Imposure* upon the *Gentlemen* of the *Hospital*; whose better *Information* could not but ere this have produc'd some good *Effects* towards its *Relief*. Next, the more confirm'd *Admission* of their *Methods*, whose *Interest* (and therefore *Business*) it seems to be, to suppress that *Information*. And lastly, the rend'ring the *Poverty*, *Disorders*, and *Impieties* of the *Place*, so much less superable than they appear'd to me when first laid before your *Lordship*; as to put me beyond all *Hopes* of their *Redress*, from any lower *Hand* than that of a *Royal Visitation*.

The *Power* of which (after so glorious a *Proof* of it as I have lately seen, to the lasting *Honour* of his *Lordship*, the present *Lord Chancellor*, in the *Case* of *St. Katherine's*) I cannot, on behalf of our distress'd *Orphans*, and in right to their Holy *Benefactors*, but bless *Almighty God* for; and henceforward direct my self wholly to; without offering either your *Lordship*, my *Lord Elect* your *Honourable Successor*, his Brethren the *Court of Aldermen*, the *Gentlemen* of the *Hospital*, or my *Self*, the *Interruptions* I have been so long driven, at the end of every *Three Months*, fruitlessly to repeat on this *Subject*. But apply my self to the speedy bringing-up to this *Day* what is now behind of my *Report*, for the *Six Months* your *Lordship* has thus unhappily added to the *Time* I had last adjust'd it to, relating to the *Moral Part* of this *House's Misery*: In order to such *Use* to be made thereof, as a like *Royal Inspection* may, I trust, find it convertible to.

It remains; That in taking my *Leave* of your *Lordship* (which I would do with all the *Respect* due to your *Lordship's* just *Character*) I beg you to consider, Whether what I either have done, am now doing, or may have further to do, in *Exposing* my *Observations* and *Sentiments* in this *Matter*, be either more or other, than what my *Charge* as a *Governour* obliges me to; and what my self alone, through my closer *Applications* to the *Service* of the *House*, am inlighten'd to do; or elsewhere, than by my immediate *Duty* I am bound; or, which is yet more, in any other manner, than what is alone left me to do it in.

Especially, after the *Miscarriage* of all other *Methods* (*Personal* and *Written*) employ'd by me with those I thought most concern'd to improve them; whether at their *Committees* and *Courts*, or separately as *Private Governours* and *Superior Ministers*; viz. the *Treasurer*, *President*, and last of all your *Lordship*, both alone, and in *Conjunction* with your Brethren the *Aldermen*. For preventing (if possible) the obvious *Consequences* of my being compell'd to the carrying them elsewhere.

And even this too, with such a degree of *Tenderness*, as, after all that has been said of its being made the *Entertainment* of *Coffee-houses*, (to the *Offence*, I find, of my *Lady Mayorefs* as well as your *Self*, and not a little to my own too, for the sake of the *Poor*,) to stand ready with a *Reward* of *Five Pounds* to whoever shall shew me any one of my *Printed Copies*, other than what were strictly deliver'd by *Mr. Town-Clerk* to Your *Self*, the *Aldermen*, and the *Assistants* of that *Court*; and those severally indors'd by a *Hand* of my own, with the *Name* of each *Person* intitled to the same.

And

And if this, *My Lord*, be a *Libel*; I shall not undertake for its being my *last*, where nothing gentler will be hearken'd to; rather than be conscious of an approaching *Ruin* to a *Foundation* like this I'm concern'd for, and be *Dumb*.

Next, *My Lord*, for avoiding any unnecessary Repetition of Trouble to the Court now sitting, where Your Lordship has yet the Honour of *Presiding*; permit me to pray, That in the *Notice* you may see reasonable to take there, of this *Paper*: You will please to be its *Remembrancer*, in what, for the *Considerations* assign'd in my last, I then bespoke its *Favour* in reference to the disburthening me of a *Charge*, in which I am at the end of any *Hopes* of seeing my self further *serviceable*.

Lastly, let it be no *Offence* to Your Lordship, that I end with an *Observation*, impossible for me to over-look. Namely; That while I am here lamenting the Misfortune of our *Poor*, from the *Suppression* of this *Report* of mine, calculated for their *Relief*; I find so much of it (and so much only) as seem'd to me the properest *Introduction* to it, in *Advancement* of *Charity*; transferr'd in *terminis* to the Head of a *Sermon* and made the *Text* of it, preach'd before your Lordship, and published by Your Command, in express *Diminution* thereof. And not that only; but to the doing violence to the *Memory* of One (scarce yet Cold in his *Grave*) whose *Good Works* have been too many and too conspicuous, not to have covered *Errors* of a much greater *Magnitude* (for no Man thought him *Infallible*) than any I hear him charg'd with. Especially, in a *Point* of *Faith*; wherein 'tis hard to say, which rais'd the greater *Dust*, and most to the offence of *Weaker Eyes*: His single Departure from the *Doctrine* of Our *Church*, towards the *Wrong*; or that of our own *Doctors* from One another, in their *Determinations* touching the *Right*.

So far only I shall adventure to interpose, in the particular *Doctrine* advanced in this *Sermon* by Your Lordship's *Chaplain* (whom I take to be the first that ever rais'd it from that *Text*) as with all deference to recommend it back to Your Lordship, with this only *Improvement*, for the rendring it more apposite and edifying in the present *Case*; Viz. That the Neglect of the *Poor* is as little an Evidence of a True Faith, in any Body else; as the Care of them is a Justification of a Mistaken one, in *Dr. Fermin*.

I am, most respectfully,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

S. Pepys.